

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, 13 and 15-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 10 and 17 are amended, and claims 6 and 11 are canceled. Independent claim 4 is amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied references. Claims 10 and 17 are amended, and claims 6 and 11 are canceled, in view of the amendments made to independent claim 4. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicants note with appreciate the allowance of claims 1-3. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance as detailed below.

Claims 4-8, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,796,428 to Matsumoto et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Matsumoto et al. does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claim 4 in which a memory stores an image data file and a designation data file that are correlated to each other, and in which the image data file includes image data that the display device is capable of using to display an image from the memory, and in which the designation data file includes designation data from which the display device is capable of displaying markings at the designated positions, the markings being superimposed on the displayed image. In rejecting the claims, the Office Action refers to col. 11, line 59 - col. 12, line 11 of Matsumoto et al. and asserts that the claimed image data file and designation data file correlated to each other corresponds to "...the album list and the new album list with a change (due to editing) are correlated to each other." However, claim 4 requires that the image data file containing image data from which the image can be displayed be correlated to a designation data file containing designation data from which markings can be displayed. Applicants respectfully submit that two album lists correlated to each other do not correspond to the claimed correlated image data file and designation data file. Moreover, the edited and unedited album lists are not displayed superimposed over each other, and neither of the album

lists (edited or unedited) is displayed superimposed over an image that has been displayed from stored image data. Accordingly, the portions of Matsumoto et al. referenced in the Office Action do not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claim 4.

While the Office Action correctly notes that Matsumoto et al. discloses that a user can write comments with a pen input device (see col. 10, lines 30-33), Matsumoto et al. does not indicate how, or even whether, data of such pen input is stored, and thus does not disclose or suggest correlating such data to image data as recited in independent claim 4. Accordingly, independent claim 4 and its dependent claims are patentable over Matsumoto et al.

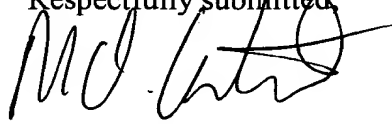
Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 9, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsumoto et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,311,207 to Kusumoto et al. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsumoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,589,857 to Tanahashi et al. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsumoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,729,289 to Etoh. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 9, 10, 13, 15 and 18 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 4. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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